



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO USING INTERNET, TRAVELING TO ILLINOIS TO MEET MINOR FOR SEX

URBANA, Ill. — A 61-year-old Texas man pleaded guilty to traveling to Illinois to have sex with a “15-year-old girl” that he had corresponded with on the Internet, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Decatur Police Department.

The teenage girl was actually a Decatur, Ill., undercover police detective.

William H. Veazey, 61, of Lewisville, Texas, admitted in court that in November 2004 he engaged in Internet chat-room conversations with a 15-year-old girl from Illinois, who in fact turned out to be an undercover police detective. From Nov. 20 to Dec. 30, during several Internet chat conversations, Veazey made numerous statements of a sexual nature to attempt to persuade the minor female to engage in sex. Veazey also made plans to travel to Decatur to meet who he believed to be a minor female under the age of 18.

On Jan. 7, Veazey arrived in Decatur and was arrested by law enforcement agents. Sentencing has been scheduled for Sept. 9 before Chief U.S. District Judge Michael P. McCuskey. Veazey was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pending sentencing.

The crime of knowingly attempting to persuade a minor to engage in sexual activity carries a mandatory minimum penalty of five years to 30 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000. For traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in a sex act with a minor, the penalty is up to 30 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. For each offense, the defendant may be ordered to a term of life-supervised release upon completion of a prison term.

“We’ve made it an agency priority to stop sexual predators from using the Internet to abuse and exploit innocent children,” said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Chicago. “ICE is committed to protecting those who cannot protect themselves, and the victims of child sexual predators are the top of that list.”

This case falls under ICE's nationwide initiative known as [Operation Predator](#). Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 5,600 individuals arrested nationwide, including more than 250 in Illinois.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy A. Bass is prosecuting the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.